

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Jack Krueger—Chair, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Kristen Verhaagh, John Walschinski.

EXCUSED: Don Bettine, John Maino, Troy Ness, Sherry Steenbock.

ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Polus.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Krueger at 5:17 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A motion was made by Kristen Verhaagh and seconded by John Walschinski to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of January 12, 2010:

A motion was made by Duane Pierce and seconded by Jim Haskins to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available):

Mr. Polus, Veterans Service Officer, reported that there is not a receptionist in the Veterans Office any longer due to budget cuts and bumping rights of union employees who have been laid off. Because of the current hiring freeze, he said Brown County has a process to go through to justify re-filling a position; he added that he is hoping to fill this position shortly, at least on a temporary basis.

Mr. Polus stated that the 127th came back from Iraq and are being seen daily. He reported that the workload in the Veterans Office is huge, and there is one employee who is pregnant and will be out from mid-April to mid-June. He explained that calls are not being returned as quickly; people are not being seen as quickly; and applications and claims are not being processed as quickly. He said there is about a 3-4 week backlog of claims because of the volume.

Upon further questions, Mr. Polus explained that approximately 2 ½ weeks ago, he spoke with County Executive Tom Hinz to request filling the receptionist position; and Mr. Polus was asked to provide additional data. He said he presented the information about 1 week ago and was told that the position would be held open for 30 to 60 days to study the request. He added that he met with Executive Hinz and Human Resources (HR) yesterday and proposed the following: (1) a limited term employee be hired for 120 days; (2) a study be performed by HR during that time to determine whether the position should be continued as is or modified; (3) a recommendation be made to the Executive Committee and County Board by April or May; and (4) a Kaizen study be conducted in July to assist with process improvement. He stated that he was told that he could fill the position with a

temporary employee for the next 90 days and that the Kaizen event should be done before the decision is made concerning the position. He added that although this creates a temporary hardship, he hopes that this will ultimately be a benefit to the Veterans Office.

Chair Krueger clarified for those present that the County Board sets the Table of Organization. Chair Krueger said the study may show that more employees are needed in the Veterans Office; and he stated that he told Executive Hinz that he wants to be involved in this process.

Kristen Verhaagh questioned when the last time was that the office was reviewed to see what the needs were, to which Mr. Polus replied that that has never been done. Mr. Polus explained that the LEAN program is designed to do this; however, he is not convinced that there will be any significant cost savings identified, particularly in view of the bureaucracy when dealing with the State and Federal VA. He said he could be wrong and his department is open to the possibility.

Mr. Polus reported that \$38 million was brought into Brown County through the Veterans Office last year. He said this means that for every dollar spent by his office, there is approximately \$100 brought into the county. He stated that processing five pension applications in a week would amount to about \$100,000 brought into Brown County. He added that with the reduced staffing, because fewer applications can be processed, the Veterans Office is not able to generate the same amount of money into Brown County; therefore, Brown County is losing money.

Mr. Polus told those present that he spoke at the monthly meeting targeting senior and disabled veterans at the ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center); the topic was this Subcommittee. He stated that there were between 70 and 80 people there and that his intent was to help those at the meeting understand the time, effort and goals of this Subcommittee. He said he also spoke about a program targeting senior veterans that John Walschinski will introduce tonight. Mr. Polus invited those present to attend the meetings: Next month Beth Ann Smith of the Milwaukee VA will be speaking; and the following month (on April 9 at 10:00 a.m. with free lunch to follow) Rolling Thunder will perform a Table Ceremony and Flag Folding Ceremony.

6. **Report from Chair Jack Krueger:** No report.
7. **Report from Committee Members (Steenbock, Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Pierce, Verhaagh, & Walschinski):**

John Walschinski distributed handouts (copies attached) and asked for input from the Subcommittee members. He said the focus of this is senior vets.

Mr. Walschinski showed the members a mock-up of a suggested page for the "Green Bay Press-Gazette" that he would like to propose as a bi-weekly featured edition. He stated that the purpose would be to offer articles of interest and information to veterans and that he intends to send this suggestion to the president of the "Green Bay Press-Gazette." Chair Krueger suggested emphasizing readership and selling newspapers when Mr. Walschinski makes the presentation. Chair Krueger also suggested having a volunteer organization purchase newspapers for vets. When Mr. Walschinski added that it might be possible to have organizations purchase advertisements, Chair Krueger said John Maino may be able to help in this area. Mr. Polus suggested that local military and veterans organizations contribute information, such as upcoming events, in addition to updates from his office and this

Subcommittee. Duane Pierce said there are other papers in the area that might also be receptive to this. When Mr. Walschinski recommended that this be a bi-weekly publication, Chair Krueger suggested publishing this weekly in the Sunday paper. Chair Krueger also said he would talk with Mr. Maino about obtaining sponsors for this publication. Ms. Verhaagh opined that individuals and groups may also be interested in sponsoring editions. Mr. Pierce added that when he began with Rolling Thunder and was asking for donations, many people opined that they did not support the war but they definitely supported veterans.

Jim Haskins reported that at Stowe's Drug Store in DePere, there is a sign in the window with a heart on it that indicates support of veterans. He read an editorial printed in the "Green Bay Press-Gazette" entitled "Why LZ Lambeau?" by John L. Zilles (copy from website attached). Chair Krueger opined that the government built that stigmatism, and there was never a welcome home for the heroes. Ms. Verhaagh said everyone is entitled to an opinion—that's what we fought for. Duane Pierce added that there has been such a response for this event that there will be four legs from all different parts of the state; and the early numbers are over 12,000.

(Mr. Haskins left at 6:33 p.m.)

Mr. Pierce reported the following events:

- **April 13, 2010**—Col. Tim Lawrie (U.S. Army retired) will be speaking at Heritage Hill on opening night of War, Art and the Vietnam Veteran - War Perspectives.
- **May 5, 2010**—Medal of Honor Winner Sammy Lee Davis will be speaking at Heritage Hill from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; tickets are \$10.00 in advance and can be purchased by calling Heritage Hill at 448-5150.
- **May 20, 2010**—Opening Ceremony for the Moving Wall will be held at noon. This is the first showing of this version of the Moving Wall, which is ½ the size of the original. This will be open 24 hours throughout the weekend.
- **May 21, 2010**—Exhibits open to the public at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Verhaagh reported that because of the minutes from a prior meeting that were placed on the Brown County website, the training for the Desert Veterans was featured on Channel 2 News.

Mr. Walschinski said he met a gentleman (Ken Stoey) who expressed interest in becoming a member of this Subcommittee.

8. **Such other Matters as Authorized by Law:** None.

9. **Adjourn:**

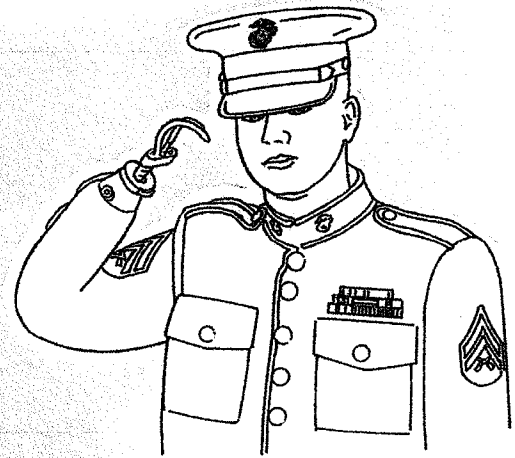
A motion was made by John Walschinski and seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Alexander
Recording Secretary



OUR SENIOR VETS



The True Spirit of Our Veterans is the True Spirit of America™

GOD BLESS AMERICA



ARMY NAVY MARINES



COAST GUARD AIR FORCE

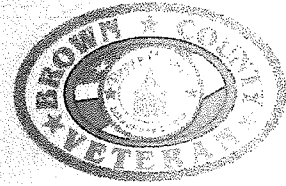
Brown County Veterans Service Office / Jerry Polus VSO / 920-448-4450 / www.polus_jc@co.brown.wi.
Senior Vets / Aging & Disability Center of Brown Cty. / 300 S. Adams St. Green Bay, WI 54301 / 920-448-43000
Veterans Clinic / 141 Siegler St. & Ashland Ave. Green Bay, WI 54304 / 920-497-3126

JSW

ARMY NAVY MARINES COAST GUARD AIR FORCE

ATTENTION!

OUR SENIOR VETS



Question.....

**What is MOST
Important to You
as a Senior Vet?**

Answer.....

ACCESS!

- * Health Care, Senior Care
- * Senior Nursing Homes
- * Education & Employment
- * VA Benefits Programs

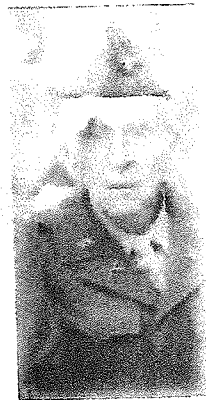
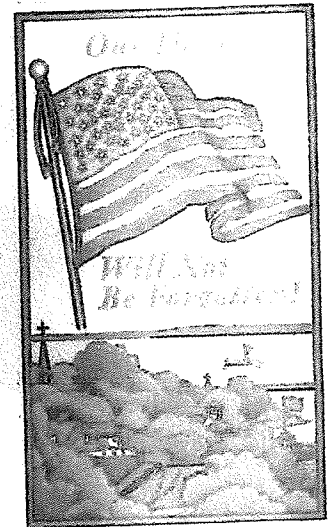
Our Senior Vets Visitation Detail,
VETS Golden Conversations™ Our
Visiting Vets for a Day Ambassador
Program & Our ADRC Aging & Disability
Resource Center of Brown County

CALL 211 Get Connected, Get Answers.

Brown County Veterans Service Office VSO
Jerry Polus Veterans Service Officer / Ph 920-448-4450
E-mail Address: www.polus_je@co.brown.wi.us



ADRC
Aging & Disability
Resource Center
of Brown County



JSW

**Hi...
I'm Nurse Lily™
Welcome to
OUR SENIOR VETS
Program**

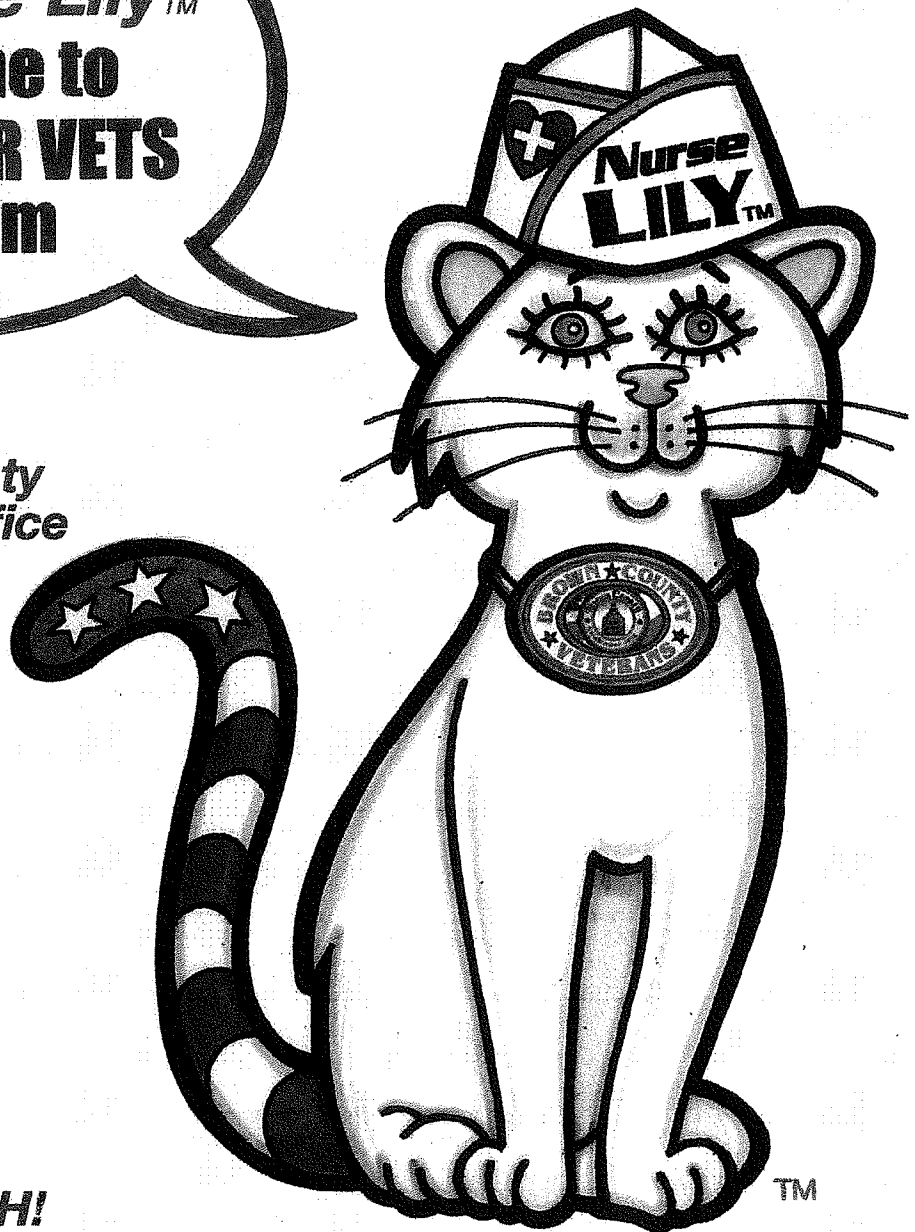
**Co-Sponsored
by Our Brown County
Veterans Service Office
and Our ADRC
Aging & Disability
Resource Center of
Brown County
Jerry Polus VSO
Ph 920-448-4450**

**The True Spirit
of Our Veterans
is the True Spirit
of America
God Bless America**

**FORWARD! MARCH!
For Our SENIOR Vets
and Their Families
of All Services**

**Army / Navy / Marines
Coast Guard / Air force**

*Design, Illustrations & Written Words
by John S. Walschinski US Army Vet
in conjunction with Jerry Polus VSO
of Brown County.*



Welcome
ADRC of Brown County

**We Are the
PURR-FECT
Care Givers!**

**We bring Joy, Happiness and
Golden
Conversations™**



DATE: 26 January 2010

TO: WBAY-TV Ch 2 Retirees:
Bob Johansaki / Art Lambert
Dick Page / Don Bergner
Chuck Ramsey

Brown Cty. Vets Recog. Subcom.
Jack Krueger, Chair / Jerry Polus VSO
John Maino & Subcom. Members

FM: John S. Walschinski
Member BC Subcom. / VFW 7534

Subj. LET OUR JOURNEY BEGIN to
Assist Our Vets & Our SENIOR Vets
& Their families

Gentlemen,

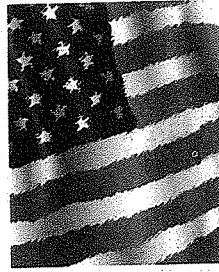
Enclosed, please find my "LET OUR JOURNEY BEGIN" Presentation. This is the result of over eight years of pursuing a goal of assisting our veterans & their families. Even more specifically Our SENIOR Vets. This journey began in the spring of 1963. And with divine guidance, hope, persistence & fortitude, my initial plan, Circle of Hope was created with a broad spectrum of assistance. However, after consulting with Jerry Polus VSO Brown Cty. A more focused plan was created, Our SENIOR Vets Program. Thank you Jerry for your input. Jerry created the the Aging & Disability Center of Brown County. ADRC

Please provide me with your comments, critique & observation of my Our SENIOR Vets Program. Join in Our Golden Conversation!

I'm not asking because your a Senior Vet with grey hair or bald. Your expert opinion & active support is greatly appreciated. No pun intended. Please respond verbally & in writing. Thanking you in advance.

God Bless You & God Bless America.

John S. Walschinski
Viet Nam Vet / US Army Ranger
Member VFW Post 7534 Duck Creek
Member BC Vets Recog. Subcom.



Become a PARTNER On Our JOURNEY



LET OUR JOURNEY BEGIN

Our Journey to Assist Our SENIOR Veterans & Their Families

Visiting Vets for a Day Ambassador Programs



Co-Sponsored by Our Brown County Veterans Service Office / Jerry Polus VSO
Our ADRC / Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County / Area Veterans
Organizations & The Brown County Veterans Recognition Subcommittee
Military Service Members & Their Families / Retired Veterans & Volunteers

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**POST 7534
DUCK CREEK**

JOHN S. WALSCHINSKI

1936 Harold St. / Green Bay, WI 54302 / 920-437-4763

E-mail: jwalschinski @ earthlink.net

VIETNAM VET / US ARMY RANGER

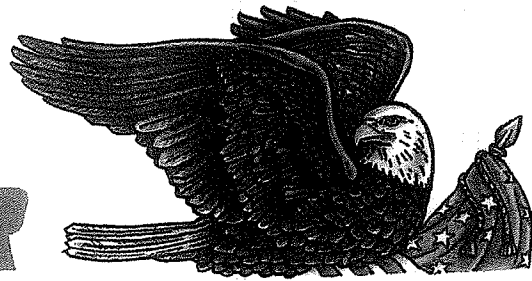
Member: Brown County Veterans Recog. Subcom.

JSW Armed Forces Design & Illustration

Officially Recognized by the United States Library of Congress
as an Outstanding Illustrator in America



LET OUR JOURNEY BEGIN

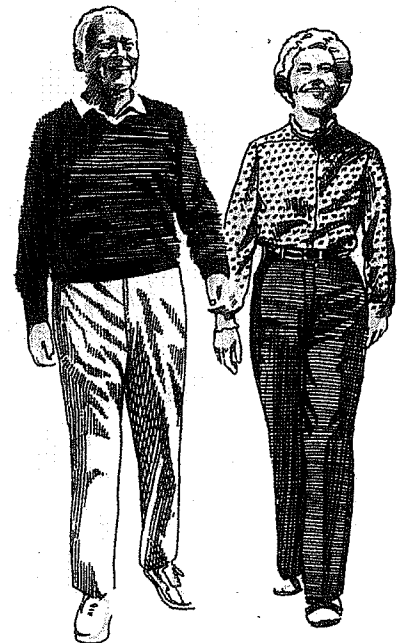


**Our Journey to Assist
Our SENIOR Veterans
& Their Families**

Visiting Vets for a Day Ambassador Programs



Welcome



**Co-Sponsored by Our Brown County Veterans Service Office / Jerry Polus VSO
Our ADRC / Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County / Area Veterans
Organizations & The Brown County Veterans Recognition Subcommittee
Military Service Members & Their Families / Retired Veterans & Volunteers**



THE FALLEN LEAF™

The Maple Leaf Falls In It's Own Season.

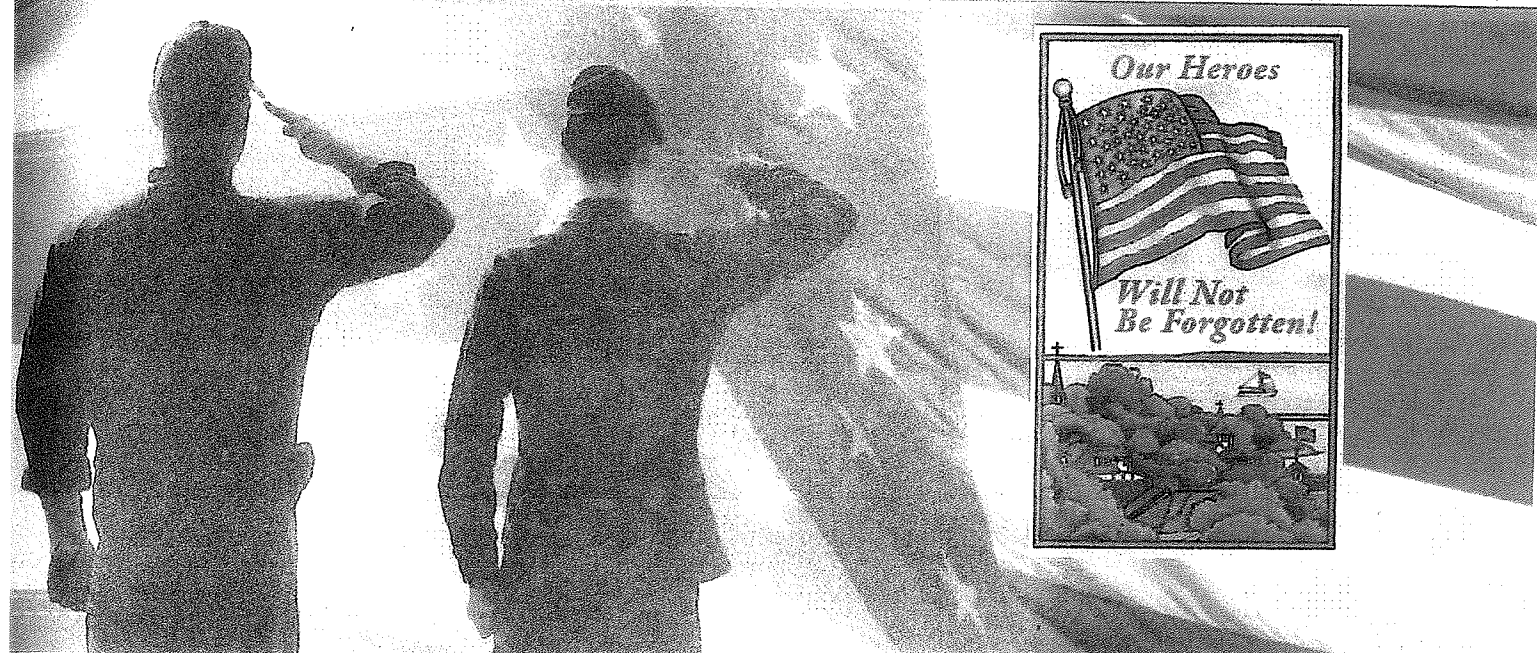
**The Fallen Leaf Represents Our Veterans, Our Heroes
Who Have Fallen & Have Given the Ultimate Sacrifice.**

This May Occur in Any Season.

**The True Spirit of Our Veterans, Especially Our
Fallen Veterans, is the True Spirit of America.**

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Design & Words by John S. Walschinski / Viet Nam Vet / 2010





Why LZ Lambeau?

January 22, 2010

GREEN BAY — As a combat-wounded and disabled Vietnam veteran, I read with interest the Green Bay Press-Gazette article regarding plans for "LZ Lambeau." The stated goal of the event is "to provide a homecoming" for Vietnam veterans, a homecoming "many of them did not receive when they returned from Vietnam."

While I appreciate the sentiment, and I agree that many of us did not receive a welcome homecoming, I have to ask, "Why now?" Who are the organizers trying to make feel better, themselves or us veterans? I'm already home and have been welcomed home by people who meant it.

The Vietnam veteran has lived too long with the stereotype of a drugged-out loser who could not cope with life after Vietnam. The vast majority of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines rose to the challenge, served honorably, and returned home to live their lives.

Like the World War II generation before us, we Vietnam veterans created a legacy of honor, sacrifice and heroism. That honor, sacrifice and heroism should have been acknowledged 35 years ago. Now it just seems like too little, too late.

John L. Zilles

Advertisement



Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

momslike^{me}.com
where local moms meet

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